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The Second Informal Meeting of Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons
Systems to The Convention on Prohibition or Restriction on the Use of
Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively
Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (CCW)
(13 April 2015, Geneva)

Statement by JAPAN

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, let me express my appreciation to you for the thorough and transparent preparation of this meeting building on the outcomes of the first informal Meeting of Experts in 2014. We support Chairman's approach to restructure various aspects of technology, law, ethics and military affairs, and identify more specific issues to be dealt with under the proposed programme of work for this meeting. We are confident that you will guide the work of this meeting to a successful conclusion, and assure you of my Delegation's full support and cooperation in your endeavors.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to make some general remarks on a couple of key issues related to LAWS, which Japan has particular interests.

Firstly, while appreciating the contribution of civil society for increasing the awareness of the humanitarian concerns regarding LAWS, Japan believes that we should be well-informed of and assess the current state of play with regard to the research and development of autonomous functions in technical systems and the future trends in robotics. With a proper understanding of the current situations, we can identify challenges to be tackled with regard to the issue of LAWS in a more concrete manner. We hope that the technical session of the meeting will provide us with due perspectives in this regard.

Secondly, Japan would like to reiterate that it is important to clarify the definition of LAWS, but at the same time we recognize that reaching a consensus is not easy at this stage considering the deliberations at the Meeting of Experts in 2014. Therefore, we consider it useful to conduct in-

depth discussions on the main elements of LAWS, such as autonomy and meaningful human control, which will be discussed at this meeting. Such discussions will facilitate a common understanding among the High Contracting Parties and lead to further discussions on the definition of LAWS. Japan is willing to engage in such discussions in a constructive manner.

Thirdly, Japan would like to re-emphasize that among various aspects of LAWS we should continue to attach particular importance to the dual-use nature of robotic technologies. It is known that robotic technologies, which have been extensively used in the areas of industries, disaster responses and healthcare, contribute to a safe and sound life for us all. Therefore, it is our strong belief that our discussions in this meeting should pay due regard to the importance of the current technological development efforts in the civilian field. Japan also recognizes that even though LAWS do not mean to refer to robotics in civil use but weapons; it is not easy to decide where to draw the line between technical components enabling autonomy in civil applications and those in military use due to the dual-use nature. Japan, for its part, has no plan to develop robots with humans out of the loop, which may be capable of committing murder.

Mr. Chairman,

Finally, let me express my sincere hope that the meeting will turn out to be most fruitful and insightful. Japan looks forward to the substantive discussions throughout this week.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Shoichi
Mr. Nagayoshi